

***Amendments to the Specification***

Please amend the paragraph of the specification on page 1, lines 7-26, as follows:

This application ~~claims the benefit of the filing date~~ <sup>now U.S. Patent 6,650,624</sup> is a continuation of  
United States Application No. 09/574,558, filed on May 19, 2000, ~~which claimed the~~  
benefit is a continuation-in-part <sup>now abandoned</sup> of United States regular Application No. 09/430,821,  
filed on October 29, 1999, which claimed the benefit of the filing date of United States  
Provisional Patent Application No. 60/106,264, filed October 30, 1998 and entitled  
HEADEND UPSTREAM MAC/PHY INTERFACE; United States Provisional Patent  
Application No. 60/106,427, filed October 30, 1998 and entitled ROBUST  
TECHNIQUE FOR OPTIMAL UPSTREAM COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CABLE  
MODEM SUBSCRIBER AND A HEADEND; United States Provisional Patent  
Application No. 60/106,438, filed October 30, 1998 and entitled SYSTEM FOR, AND  
METHOD OF, FRAGMENTING DATA PACKETS IN A CABLE MODEM SYSTEM;  
United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/106,439, filed October 30, 1998 and  
entitled CABLE MODEM SYSTEM; United States Provisional Patent Application No.  
60/106,440, filed October 30, 1998 and entitled NETWORK DATA TRANSMISSION  
SYNCHRONIZATION SYSTEM AND METHOD; United States Provisional Patent  
Application No. 60/106,441, filed October 30, 1998 and entitled BURST RECEIVER  
SYSTEM, the entire contents of all of which are hereby expressly incorporated by  
reference.